

# Recordkeeping

## Employers must post injury and illness summaries now through April



OSHA reminds employers of their obligation to post a copy of [OSHA's Form 300A](#), which summarizes job-related injuries and illnesses logged during 2015. The summary must be displayed in a common area where notices to employees are usually posted each year between Feb. 1 and April 30.

Businesses with 10 or fewer employees and those in certain low-hazard industries are exempt from OSHA recordkeeping and posting requirements. As of Jan. 1, 2015, certain previously exempt industries are now covered. Lists of both [exempt](#) and [newly covered](#) industries are available on OSHA's website. Visit OSHA's [Recordkeeping Rule webpage](#) for more information on recordkeeping requirements.



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# Enforcement

## Continued workplace hazards gain Texas seafood distributor 'severe violator' status and \$155K in OSHA fines



As part of OSHA's National Emphasis Program on the safe handling of highly hazardous chemicals, the agency inspected the anhydrous ammonia refrigeration system of a seafood distributor in Brownsville, Texas. Inspectors found that Rich Products Corp. had failed to comply with OSHA's order to make improvements to its process safety management system after a 2012 inspection found serious hazards. "Process safety management is necessary for preventing or minimizing the consequences of an unexpected release of toxic, reactive, flammable, or explosive chemicals in the workplace," said Travis Clark, OSHA's area director in Corpus

Christi. The company was cited for 14 violations in all with proposed penalties of \$155,000 and was placed in OSHA's [Severe Violator Enforcement Program](#). Read the [news release](#) for more information.



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## OSHA fines Ohio manufacturer \$121K for exposing workers to amputation hazards



An OSHA inspection of a nuts and bolts manufacturer in Berea, Ohio, found workers were exposed to hazards that could have resulted in amputations and other severe injuries. Telefast Industries Inc. was cited for eight safety violations including failure to: install guards on machinery to prevent workers from contacting operating parts; provide workers with head and face protection against arc flash; and conduct required crane inspections. Proposed fines totaled \$121,000. For more information, read the [news release](#).



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## **Frozen food producer accepts \$100K in penalties, enhanced safety compliance after OSHA finds continued violations**



Following a series of severe injuries at its Atlanta facility, a major producer of frozen pizza and other foods accepted responsibility for safety and health hazards found by OSHA inspectors and signed a pre-citation settlement agreement. OSHA issued 10 citations for hazards including failing to ensure that machines were properly guarded and that workers were using safety procedures to prevent unexpected machine start-up, and failing to implement safety procedures for ammonia refrigeration systems.

Schwan's Global Supply Inc. agreed to pay \$100,000 in penalties and make improvements such as: ensuring that only trained employees perform service and maintenance on machines, hiring a health and safety consultant to check for equipment, fall and other hazards, providing employee training on emergency procedures, and holding quarterly compliance status meetings with OSHA officials. For more information, see the [news brief](#).

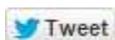


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## **Massachusetts roofing contractor faces \$188K in OSHA fines after once again exposing workers to fall hazards**



A Framingham, Mass., contractor with a history of safety violations has again exposed its employees to potentially fatal fall hazards at one of its worksites. OSHA inspectors found employees of A S General Construction Inc. risked falls of more than 26 feet from an unguarded roof and an improperly constructed and erected ladder-jack scaffold. "Not only did A S General Construction not provide required fall protection, it did not train the employees to work safely on scaffolds and had the workers climbing damaged and improperly set up ladders," said Anthony Covello, OSHA's area director for Essex and Middlesex counties. "The result was that these workers were steps or seconds away from deadly or disabling falls." Several of the violations at the worksite are similar to those OSHA cited A S General Construction for between 2011 and 2015 at worksites in Dedham and Windham, New Hampshire. As a result, OSHA [cited the company\\*](#) for 16 violations of workplace safety standards, with proposed penalties of \$188,760. OSHA has also placed A S General Construction in the agency's [Severe Violator Enforcement Program](#). For more information, see the [news release](#).



## State Plan enforcement cases

The following is a recent example of an enforcement case from a [State Plan state](#). For more examples of state and federal enforcement cases, visit OSHA's online [enforcement penalties map](#).

The [Washington Division of Occupational Safety and Health](#)

issued \$1.3M in fines to Zodiac Cabin and Structures Support LLC in Newport after inspectors detected workplace safety and health violations following a July 2015 explosion that injured 17 workers. Inspectors determined that the explosion could have been prevented if the company had used required safety interlocks and safeguards to ensure that a curing oven was used safely. For more information, read the [Washington DOSH news release](#).

## Enforcement cases with Initial Penalties Above \$40,000



Please visit the [enforcement news releases page](#) for more on OSHA enforcement activity.

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## Whistleblower Protection

### New York trucking company ordered to pay more than \$45K to wrongfully terminated employee

Brindi Trailer Sales and Services Inc. of Meridale, New York, and its owner violated the anti-discrimination [provisions\\*](#) of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act when it fired a driver who complained about defective equipment on his truck. In February 2012, the driver contacted the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, which inspected the truck and found 16 violations. The driver notified Brindi and was immediately fired. He then filed a whistleblower complaint. OSHA has since ordered Brindi to pay the driver \$32,642.20 in lost wages, \$10,000 in punitive damages and \$3,060.02 in attorney's fees and and expunge his employment records. For more information, see the [news release](#).



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## Public Meeting

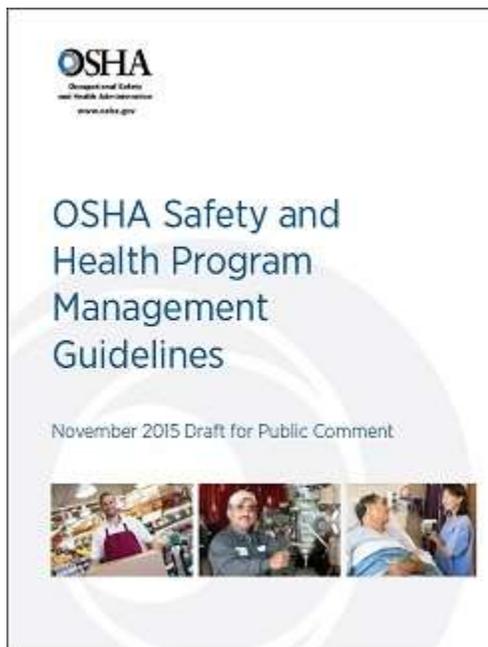
### Public stakeholder meeting scheduled on updated Safety and Health Program Management Guidelines

OSHA invites interested parties to attend a day-long roundtable discussion on the agency's draft updated [Safety and Health Program Management Guidelines](#). The meeting is set for Thursday, March 10, 2016, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the U.S. Department of Labor's Frances Perkins Building in Washington, D.C.

Those wishing to attend [must register here](#) by March 3. Attendees can choose from several levels of participation in the discussion, which will cover the guidelines in general plus key issues that were raised in public comments. The [comment period](#) closes Feb. 22, 2016. For more information, read the [news release](#).



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## Advisory Committees

### OSHA seeks nominations for membership on the National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health

OSHA is accepting [nominations](#) for six positions on the 12-member National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health.

[NACOSH](#) was established under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to advise, consult with and make recommendations to the Secretaries of Labor and Health and Human Services on matters relating to the administration of the Act, including regulatory, research, compliance assistance and enforcement issues.

OSHA is seeking nominations for two public representatives and one representative from each of the following categories: management, labor, occupational safety, and occupational health. Members serve a two-year term and may be appointed to successive terms.

The deadline for nominations is March 22, 2016. They may be submitted electronically at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), or sent by mail or facsimile. See the [Federal Register notice](#) for submission details.



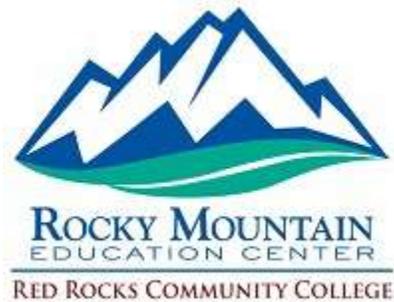
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## Training

### Free training in Colorado and North Dakota to promote worker safety in the oil and gas industry

The Rocky Mountain Education Center will offer free training to help managers in the oil and gas industry educate and motivate a diverse workforce to follow health and safety requirements. Training will emphasize how to be safe without sacrificing work quality or production outcomes. Special emphasis will be placed on smaller employers and those with workers who use English as a second language. Training will be offered in Lakewood, Colo., March 14-16 and in Bismark, N.D., March 29-31. For more information and to register, visit the [course website](#). The courses were made possible through funding from a [Susan Harwood Training Grant](#).



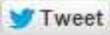
### OSHA to introduce more durable outreach trainer and student cards

OSHA is introducing more durable and secure completion cards for its Outreach Training Programs, including 10-hour and 30-hour voluntary safety classes for workers in construction, maritime, and general industry.



The classes, which help workers learn how to identify and prevent workplace hazards, are not required by OSHA although some cities and employers do require workers to complete them. The classes are taught by independent consultants authorized by OSHA and trained through [OSHA Training Institute Education Centers](#).

At the conclusion of each course, students receive completion cards, which are currently printed on paper. After February 29, completion cards will be made of a more durable card stock, like a credit card - with a QR code that will include the student name, trainer name, date of issue, and the OTI Education Center that produced the card. OTI Education Centers will charge \$8 each for the new cards, compared to \$5 for the current paper cards. The new cards will be issued for in-person training sessions only; students who complete online training will continue to receive paper cards at this time. Workers who already have 10-hour and 30-hour cards do not need to change over to a new card. For more information, visit OSHA's voluntary [Outreach Training Programs webpage](#).

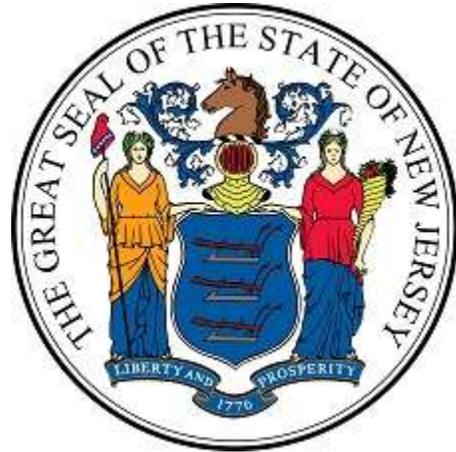


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## State Plans

### OSHA certifies New Jersey occupational safety and health plan for state and local government workers

OSHA recently certified New Jersey's State Plan for protecting the safety and health of state and local government workers. The New Jersey Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health State Plan covers more than 530,000 state and local government workers. The New Jersey State Plan was initially approved in January of 2001 and certification became effective on Jan. 22, 2016. This certification, which was published in the [Federal Register](#), attests to the fact that New Jersey now has in place all those structural components necessary for a State Plan covering state and local government workers. For more information, see the [news release](#).

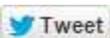


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## Alliances and Partnerships

### OSHA renews alliance to train and protect electrical workers in Ohio

OSHA recently renewed a three-year alliance with The Toledo Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee. The emphasis of the alliance will be on training electrical workers on job hazards related to wind tower safety, photo-voltaic cell installation, and maintenance safety. Representatives from each organization will meet at least twice annually to develop a plan of action, to determine working procedures, and to track and share information related to the achievement of the alliance goals. For more information, read the [news release](#).



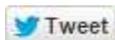
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### OSHA renews alliance to reduce hazards associated with powered industrial trucks

OSHA recently renewed its alliance with the [Industrial Truck Association](#) to reduce worker injuries and fatalities when using powered industrial trucks. During the five-year agreement, the alliance will focus on tip-over and struck-by hazards.



Through the alliance, participants will develop resources and provide training on recognizing and reducing workplace hazards related to the operation of powered industrial trucks. Additionally, the alliance will promote OSHA campaigns on preventing falls and heat illness, implement projects that protect temporary workers, and encourage a culture of safety, particularly to small businesses and workers with limited- and non-English speaking skills. For more information, see the [news release](#).



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## Joint Employment

### New guidance on joint employment explains employer responsibilities in fissured workplaces

Situations where employers share responsibility for workers – such as when a staffing agency provides labor to a manufacturer – are more common than ever, and the resulting employment relationships are increasingly complex. Employers wondering about their responsibilities in these fissured workplaces have a new guidance resource from the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor: [Joint Employment Under the FLSA and MSPA](#). If you are wondering how this guidance may be useful in your employment situation, please see this recent [DOL blog](#).



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This worker is jointly employed by the hotel and the staffing company that placed her there.

## Educational Resources

**OSHA has new webpage on requirements to maintain clean and accessible restrooms**

OSHA has a [new webpage](#) explaining employers' obligations to provide all workers with sanitary and immediately-available toilet facilities. OSHA's sanitation standards are intended to ensure that workers do not suffer adverse health effects that can result if toilets are not sanitary and/or are not available when needed. The webpage includes information on the minimum number of toilet facilities an employer must provide, in restrooms separate for each sex. The webpage also includes a link to OSHA's recent best practices publication, [A Guide to Restroom Access for Transgender Workers\\*](#).



**Restrooms must provide hot and cold running water or lukewarm water, hand soap or similar cleansing agent and warm air blowers or individual hand towels (e.g., paper or cloth).**



### **OSHA issues alert on hazards of working with scissor lifts**

OSHA has posted a new [Hazard Alert on Working Safely with Scissor Lifts\\*](#), which was developed after a student was killed while filming from a scissor lift in 2010. The alert describes and encourages the safe use of scissor lifts through three proactive focus areas—fall protection, stability, and positioning.



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# Digital Media

Featured Tweet

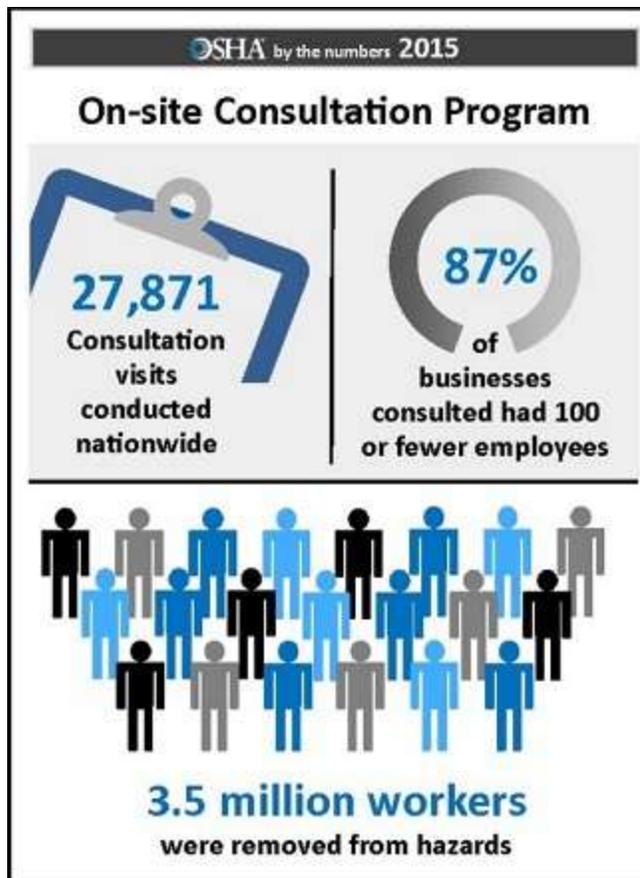
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OSHA provides news and commentary on workplace safety and health from its senior leadership, staff and guest contributors on the [DOL blog](#). See our latest posts:

- [Working in a Winter Wonderland: 4 Things to Know in the Snow](#) by Jesse Lawder of DOL's Office of Public Affairs
- [Keeping Cleanup Workers Safe after Midwest Floods and Tornadoes](#) by Mandy Edens, director of OSHA's Directorate of Technical Support and Emergency Management
- [Why This Counts: Slips, Trips and Falls in the Workplace](#) by Commissioner Erica Groshen of the Bureau of Labor Statistics

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US Labor Department @USDOL · 23h  
#OSHA free on-site consultations are separate from enforcement & do not result in penalties. [osha.gov/consultation](#)

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## Job openings

Are you interested in a career with the Department of Labor? DOL has [job opportunities](#) throughout the country, including [openings](#) in OSHA.



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See [DOL's weekly electronic newsletter](#) for more DOL news.

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